

What is claimed as the invention is:

1. A method for providing a comfort noise signal in a telephone having a receive channel and a transmit channel and a plurality of sub-band filters in at least one channel, said method comprising the steps of:
 - generating a white noise signal;
 - filtering the white noise signal in a filter bank to produce comfort noise signal;
 - selectively coupling the comfort noise signal to at least one of the channels.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said filtering step includes the steps of:
 - coupling white noise signal through a first multiplier to the low pass input of the QMF bank;
 - coupling white noise signal through a second multiplier to the high pass input of the QMF bank;
 - controlling the gain of the first multiplier in accordance with the magnitude of the signal in a first analysis sub-band;
 - controlling the gain of the second multiplier in accordance with the magnitude of the signal in a second analysis sub-band;
 - wherein the first sub-band has a lower frequency than the second sub-band.
3. The method as set forth in claim 2 and further including the steps of:
 - combining the output signals from two or more analysis sub-band filters to produce a combined signal; and
 - controlling the gain of the second multiplier in accordance with the combined signal.
4. The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein the telephone includes n analysis sub-bands and there are no more than $(n-1)$ QMF banks and further including the step of:

upwardly cascading the QMF banks to increase the low frequency resolution of the comfort noise signal.

5 5. The method as set forth in claim 3 wherein the telephone includes n analysis sub-bands and there are no more than $(n-1)$ QMF banks and further including the step of:

combining the outputs from higher frequency sub-band filters to increase the low frequency resolution of the comfort noise signal.

10 6. In a cellular telephone having an antenna, an RF stage coupled to said antenna, and a signal processing circuit including an audio processor having a receive channel and a transmit channel and a plurality of analysis sub-band filters in at least one of the channels, said cellular telephone characterized by a comfort noise generator comprising:

15 a white noise generator;

at least one QMF bank producing a comfort noise signal, said QMF bank having a high pass input and a low pass input;

a first multiplier having a control input coupled to a first of said analysis sub-band filters;

20 a second multiplier having a control input coupled to a second of said analysis sub-band filters;

wherein the first multiplier couples said white noise generator to said low pass input and said second multiplier couples said white noise generator to said high pass input;

25 means for selectively coupling the comfort noise signal to at least one of the channels.

7. The cellular telephone as set forth in claim 6 and further comprising:
 n analysis sub-band filters and
30 no more than $(n-1)$ QMF banks;

wherein the QMF banks are upwardly cascaded.

8. The cellular telephone as set forth in claim 6 and further including:
at least one summation circuit for coupling the outputs of more than one analysis
5 sub-band filter to the control input of a multiplier.

9. The cellular telephone as set forth in claim 8 and further comprising:
 n analysis sub-band filters and
no more than $(n-1)$ QMF banks;
10 wherein the QMF banks are upwardly cascaded.

10. The cellular telephone as set forth in claim 9 wherein the number of QMF
banks is $(n/2 - 1)$.